



BY L. FRANK BARR.

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(Continued from Tuesday's Star.)

The hut was built of pieces of rock carefully fitted together at the back, and at first I could discover no means of investigating the interior from where I stood. Just then I heard the door open, and I crept behind a rock. Peering from my retreat, I saw the woman go toward the grove with a bundle. There was a spring of fresh water there. I again approached the house, and finding a large crack at one place between the edges of the stones, I took out my knife and chipped briskly away at the clay until I heard a clatter inside which warned me that I had penetrated the wall. The dusk had now fallen and it was nearly dark. Mother Videau returned and lit a candle. After first closing the door carefully behind her. With my eye to the chink in the wall I could see the interior of the one room fairly well. It contained a rude table, one chair, a bed of cocoa leaves in a corner, a few old tins and household utensils and a barrel.

Then the old Videau made her tea and then turned to the basket of food she had brought from the inclosure. She laid each article carefully on the table, and when she came to the loaf Forsythe had given her, she turned it over and over in her hands, chuckling in a low, cracked tone, as though its appearance amused her.

"Not entirely," I said. "I do not intend to lead by tomorrow's boat." "Pardon me, I do," he said. "I looked at me steadily for a time, putting at his and evidently thinking what he should say. When he spoke it was in an altered tone. "We had better understand one another, Andrews."

"I nodded my acquiescence. "As the head of affairs in Benita," he continued, "and my brother's representative, I request a full report of whatever you may have discovered—or rather, what you think you have discovered."

"For a moment his audacity took my breath away, but I replied, shortly: "I am employed by your brother. My report will be made to him alone."

"You have fully decided to ignore me?" "To the extent of retaining what knowledge of the past I possess."

"Very good. It is not what I had a right to expect, but I think we understand each other," and without more he turned his back and walked away.

I reflected that although he might understand me I could not say that I understood him. He was a man of many parts, and I was about to beat a retreat, satisfied that there were no more, she gathered up the crumbs, put them in a small bag, and then, as if by magic, she produced a small, round, brown object, which she held up to the light, which caught one point of it and sent out an oblique prismatic ray. It was a rough diamond.

"My heart gave a great bound of delight. I had found my clue at last."

She went through the whole lot and laid the diamonds in a little heap on the table. Then, satisfied there were no more, she gathered up the crumbs, put them in a small bag, and then, as if by magic, she produced a small, round, brown object, which she held up to the light, which caught one point of it and sent out an oblique prismatic ray. It was a rough diamond.

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## A VISIT TO THE ALAMO

The Only Survivor of the Massacre Tells His Story.

A Building Full of Tragic Interest in a Quiet Town—Inventor of the Bowie Knife.

From the St. Louis Republic.

Every American boy should visit San Antonio. He should go to the Alamo. Let him go at night, as did a staff correspondent of the Republic this evening. Let him go when the soft southern moon sheds its beams upon the gray and time-stained walls. Let him stand before the old building and picture to himself what occurred there March 6, 1836.

"Thermopylae had her messenger of defeat; the Alamo had none."

In the Alamo 109 men died gallantly fighting—one lived to tell the story. But they left behind a terrible reminder of their prowess. Full 1,000 Mexicans went down beneath their lead and cross-bow never to rise again. But Crockett and Travis and Bowie and Bonham died there, and they died in a sea of blood. Let the American youth stand before the old Alamo and think of these things. It will arouse his patriotism; it will make of him a better citizen—a better man.

Nothing so stirringly blood as the recital of this oft-repeated tale, unless it be the story of how Houston and his men wreaked vengeance for it on the field of San Jacinto. The telling itself is thrilling; but how much stronger does the heart swell when the ears catch while the eyes rest upon the very scene!

About no town in all this country does the story of the Alamo have so much of a romantic history; nowhere so many pretty legends. A quiet old town is San Antonio, quaint in the midst of the bustle and progress of the great city. It breathes the spirit of the past long gone; it breathes the spirit of the heroic present. Extremes meet here, the old and the new, the past and the present. The story of the evolution of Texas from a province of Spain to a republic, and afterward to a state of the Union, is but a story of Texas. From the edges of the Alamo, the story of the evolution of Texas from a province of Spain to a republic, and afterward to a state of the Union, is but a story of Texas.

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The Alamo, built in 1716, by Franciscan monks, is now a picturesque ruin. It was purchased by the state from the Catholic Church in 1883, placed in the hands of a custodian, and every effort is now being made to preserve it intact and in its original form. But prior to that time it underwent much damage from decay.

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a dozen 6-pound howitzers, had been storming the old mission almost continuously. On March 5 he was reinforced by 2,000 men, and on daylight on the 6th the final assault came.

"There is a variety of data as to the number of men under Col. Travis in the Alamo. Some place it at 175, some at 176, some at 177, some at 178, some at 179, some at 180, some at 181, some at 182, some at 183, some at 184, some at 185, some at 186, some at 187, some at 188, some at 189, some at 190, some at 191, some at 192, some at 193, some at 194, some at 195, some at 196, some at 197, some at 198, some at 199, some at 200, some at 201, some at 202, some at 203, some at 204, some at 205, some at 206, some at 207, some at 208, some at 209, some at 210, some at 211, some at 212, some at 213, some at 214, some at 215, some at 216, some at 217, some at 218, some at 219, some at 220, some at 221, some at 222, some at 223, some at 224, some at 225, some at 226, some at 227, some at 228, some at 229, some at 230, some at 231, some at 232, some at 233, some at 234, some at 235, some at 236, some at 237, some at 238, some at 239, some at 240, some at 241, some at 242, some at 243, some at 244, some at 245, some at 246, some at 247, some at 248, some at 249, some at 250, 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